

### **REMARKS**

Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Amendments to claim 26, “the extraction grid, as seen from the plasma chamber, is convexly formed” are supported by the specification of the original PCT application. “Konvex ausgebildet”, which means “convexly formed”, can be found in the last paragraph, page 8, and 5<sup>th</sup> paragraph, page 10 of the PCT application. Therefore, no new matter has been introduced.

Claims 26-27, 29-30, 39-42, and 54-55 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for allegedly being obvious over Ichiki in view of Adler. Claims 33-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ichiki, Adler and Oeschner. Claims 28, 37-38, and 43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for allegedly being obvious over Ichiki, Adler and Betz. Claims 31-32 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ichiki, Adler and Kumagai. It is believed that amendments to claim 26 obviate each of these rejections.

None of the references cited by the Examiner disclose a grid convexly towards the plasma. In addition, since the grid is located inside the housing of a plasma source, the technical motivation is to make the positioning of the grid more flexible. Furthermore, when a grid was formed to be convex to the plasma, the grid may have enhanced mechanical stability.

Since the cited references do not disclose any hint or motivation to use a convex formed grid for extracting a neutral plasma beam, neither claim 26, nor any of its dependent claims, are obvious in view of Ichiki and Adler, along with other cited references.

In view of the foregoing, all rejections should be withdrawn. Allowance is respectfully requested.

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The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 50-0624, under Order No. NY-RPP-202-US (10510421).

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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